



03560.003343

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Ryo KURODA et al.) : Examiner: J. S. Ruggles
Application No.: 10/648,317) : Group Art Unit: 1756
Filed: August 27, 2003) : Confirmation No.: 3665
For: NEAR-FIELD PHOTOMASK AND NEAR-FIELD) : Allowed: January 12, 2006
EXPOSURE APPARATUS INCLUDING THE) : March 7, 2006
PHOTOMASK (As Amended))

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to further examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified
application as follows: